in its Common Approach to Major Policy Matters and a Minimum Programme has stated that the anti-poverty programmes will be redesigned to ensure generation of more employment, creation of assets, imparting productive skills and raising the incomes of the very poor so that a significant number is brought above the poverty line every year and poverty is abolished by the year 2005.

(b) The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty from the quinquennial National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure. As per the latest available estimates, 320.37 million people live below the poverty line in 1993-94. The number of people living below the poverty line in Gujarat is estimated as 10.52 million in 1993-94. In Gujarat, the percentage of population living below the poverty line among the SCs in 1993-94 are 32.26% in rural areas and 14.99% in urban areas and the same among the STs are 31.20% in rural areas and 35.47% in urban areas.

(c) The targets for the number of poor people to be uplifted above the poverty line are not set annually.

Free Medical Facilities to SCs/STs

2380. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive scheme is being implemented in the country particularly in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh to provide free medical facilities to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of families benefited under the scheme in each State particularly in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh since its introduction; and

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to introduce such a scheme for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Kashmir Issue

2381. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

[illegible]

visited Mpscow during the last month urged Russia to "guide and direct" its ongoing talks with India on Kashmir issue; and

(b) if so, the Indian Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) Yes Sir. The Pakistan Foreign Minister addressing a Press Conference on 8th July, 1997, at the conclusion of his visit to Russia last month, had reportedly sought help, guidance, direction from Russia for reaching a peaceful settlement of the Jammu & Kashmir issue.

(b) It is Government's consistent policy that all issues between Indian and Pakistan should be resolved bilaterally. This ruled out any third party intervention of any sort. India's principled position has received wide support in the international community, including by Russia.

[Translation]

Rehabilitation of Kasnmiri Pandits

2382. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Kashmiri Pandits and others who were rendered homeless rehabilitated after the new Government has taken the charge in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether any target has been fixed for rehabilitation of displaced person by the end of 1997 and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the terrorists have attacked the rehabilitated people;

(d) if so, the number of persons killed and injured in terrorist attacks;

(e) whether the Government have taken any concrete steps to check the atrocities of the terrorists; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS. (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) No Kashmiri migrant family has returned to the Kashmir Valley after the installation of the new Government in the State.

(b) The State Government is preparing an action plan for return of Kashmiri migrants to their native places and they have informed that the process is likely to take